

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
RULES COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 16, 2016**

Present: Bruce Baird, Marilyn Billings, Richard Bogartz, David Gross, A Yemisi Jimoh, MJ Peterson, Jim Rinderle, Marinos Vouvakis and Susan Whitbourne

1. Minutes

Minutes of the November 18, 2016 Rules Committee were deferred to the next meeting.

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Board of Trustees

The backgrounds of recently appointed trustees and their previously expressed areas of interest were discussed in the context of likely board initiatives. Efficiency and effectiveness are expected to remain important areas of board activity.

B. Update on process of considering revisions to Gen Ed diversity requirement

The status of the pending Gen Ed proposal was reviewed. A discussion ensued about general education criteria and changes to the criteria posted on the Gen Ed website. Updates on these issues were expected to be discussed at a meeting of the Gen Ed Council to be convened soon after adjournment of this Rules Committee meeting.

C. Campus budgeting process - update from Secretary

The secretary advised the rest of the Committee on the evolving budget prospects for FY18 and on the processes that will be used on campus to formulate the FY18 budget.

D. Review of fall, preview of spring

The Committee reviewed the questions and issues resolved during the fall and those that remain open and before the Senate. The Gen Ed proposal and additional bylaw changes are among the items which will be revisited by the Senate this spring.

Respectfully submitted,
James R. Rinderle